

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 5-9, and 11-12 remain pending in this application, and are submitted for reconsideration.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

Rejection of claims 2-5 and 7 based on 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 2-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the recitation “the other of the driven member and the drive member that remains engaged with the link” does not provide a clear limitation in light of the specification. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 2-4 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot.

Although the claim language is clear, claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended to recite “the other of the driven member and the drive member, the other remaining engaged with the link” so as to address the PTO’s confusion over the meaning of “the other of the driven member and the drive member that remains engaged with the link.” It is noted that the claims were previously amended to adopt language similar to the PTO’s suggestion provided in paragraph 3 of the Office Action dated May 7, 2007, to address some claim objections, but this very amendment caused the PTO’s confusion. If there is any remaining confusion not addressed by this amendment, the PTO is requested to contact the Applicant’s representative to discuss.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-12 based on the prior art

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1197672 (“Kimura”), JP 03-228595 (“Kojiro”), and U.S. Patent 5,683,299 (“Kishibuchi”). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to substantially incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, which has been indicated to be allowable over the prior art. Claim 1 defines a resilient locking member which is configured to lock with the link disengaged from the one of the driven member and the drive member. The resilient locking member is derived from a combination of a locking member as recited in now canceled claim 3 and the resilient feature

of the locking member slidably pressing the link as recited in now canceled claim 4. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-3 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 5-9 and 11-12 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1, and are allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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